



Our Mission...

to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.

We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.

March 29th, 2026
Lent 2026 – “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”
Palm ~ Passion Sunday

The asterisk invites all to stand, if they are able. **Bold print indicates a congregational response.*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

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~Joanne Diplock

OPENING WORDS

*GATHERING HYMN: VU #412 – “***This is the Day***”

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*(Hobbs/Nixon)
~Joanne Diplock*

- 1 This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.**
- 2 Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God, your gates, O God;
we will go in, we will go in,
to your holy place, to your holy place.
Open to us your gates, O God,
we will go in to your holy place.
Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God.**
- 3 You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name, we will praise your name;
we will give thanks, we will give thanks,
for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.
You are our God, we will praise your name,
we will give thanks for your faithfulness.**

**You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name.**

CALL to WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 118:19-25) (From the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum 2006-2007.)

This is the day that our God has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Come, let us give thanks to God, whose mercy lasts forever.

*Let us enter the gates of righteousness,
and offer thanks to God who has saved us.*

This is the day that our God has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

God has done this, and it is marvelous to behold.

This is the day that our God has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*HYMN: #8 MV – "**And on This Path**"

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(Bauman/Good)

~Joanne Diplock

**1 And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,**

**Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gates are open wide!**

**2 So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide, R**

WELCOME and INTRODUCTION to the SERVICE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the LAND

We acknowledge that we meet on Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Red River Metis. We also acknowledge that the water we use here comes from the Shoal Lake 40 First Nation. We are grateful for these first inhabitants and their stewardship of the land and its resources through the ages, and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE ~lit by Gay Todd

LIGHTING of the PEACE CANDLE

As we light this second candle, we pray for peace:

**peace in our hearts,
peace in our homes,**

peace in our world.

*As today, we welcome Jesus, the Prince of Peace,
O God, we pray for peace. Amen.*

SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST

***Peace be with you.
And also with you.***

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

PALM SUNDAY LITANY (Adapted from Richard Bott; from Gathering Lent/Easter 2021.)

Hosanna!

Hosanna!

HOSANNA!

HOSANNA!

Christ the Lord is near.

Hosanna!

Hosanna!

HOSANNA!

HOSANNA!

Christ the Lord is here.

*With hymns and songs and waving palms,
we celebrate his Way!*

Hosanna!

Hosanna!

Welcome Christ the Lord, today!

*HYMN: VU #123 – "***Hosanna, Loud Hosanna***"

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(Threlfall)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Hosanna, loud hosanna
the happy children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the joyful anthem rang;
to Jesus, who had blessed them
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.**
- 2 From Olivet they followed
'mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm branch waving,
and singing clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,**

content that little children
should on his bidding wait.

- 3 'Hosanna in the highest!'
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer;
earth, let your anthems ring.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his humble presence
eternally rejoice!

PALM SUNDAY PRAYER (Written by Janet Cawley; from *Celebrate God's Presence*.)

**Eternal God, this morning we have come to cheer you on.
We can feel the excitement of the crowds
who welcomed Jesus with such joy,
and we want to join in, to share their hope,
remembering your promise of a saviour.
Bless us as we greet your Son, who arrives now.
In his name we pray. Amen.**

HYMN: VU #357 – "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

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(Parker/Challinor)
~Joanne Diplock

- 1 **Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear,
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.**
- 4 **Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas! Jesus is king!**

Scripture Reading: *read by Carol Barrett*

Matthew 21: 1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

*"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."*

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the

colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

CHOIR ANTHEM: #128 MV – "When They Heard That Jesus Was Coming" (Cooney)

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~Joanne Diplock

INVITATION to the OFFERING

*(Written by Wanda Winfield; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2018.*)*

THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music *as the offerings are collected*

~Joanne Diplock

***Offering Verse: #191 MV – "What Can I Do?"**

sung 2X

(Rumbolt/McCarthy)

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~Joanne Diplock

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

***Offertory Prayer** *(Written by Kate Crawford; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2016.*)*

Receive our gifts as you have received our hosannas and praise.

Bless both what is given and those who give it.

Bless most deeply of all those whose lives will be touched

by what we offer here.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

LITURGY OF THE PASSION

REFLECTION: "From Palms to Passion"

~Rev. Susan Reed

Scripture Reading: *read by Carol Barrett*

Matthew 26: 14-25

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray [Jesus] to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment [Judas] began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city

to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.' " So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, and while they were eating he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" [Jesus] replied, "You have said so."

SUNG REFRAIN: #90 MV – "Don't Be Afraid" (Choir X1 Cong X1)

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(Bell/Maule)

~Joanne Diplock

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
My love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and
I have promised, promised to be always near.**

Scripture Reading: *read by Carol Barrett*

Matthew 26: 26-35

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

"But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of him, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

SUNG REFRAIN: #90 MV – "Don't Be Afraid" (sung X1)

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(Bell/Maule)

~Joanne Diplock

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
My love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and
I have promised, promised to be always near.**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

***CLOSING HYMN: VU #142 – "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"**

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*(Crosby/Doane)
~Joanne Diplock*

- 1 Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.

In the cross, in the cross,
be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find
rest beyond the river.**
- 2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. R**
- 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. R**
- 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. R**

***SENDING FORTH**

(Adapted from the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum 2009-2010.)

**The Lenten way has become the way of the cross
and we must journey forward, watching our step.
Let us enter into this week, into the unfolding story,**

confident in God's steadfast love which endures forever.

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

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(Price/Besig)

~Joanne Diplock

**May the Lord go with you,
let him take your hand.
Keep His love within you,
until we meet again. Amen.**

POSTLUDE: "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

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~Joanne Diplock